

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: KATO, et al.

Filed: January 23, 2001

For: VACUUM PROCESSING APPARATUS AND OPERATING
METHOD THEREFOR

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

January 23, 2001

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application, prior to
examination thereof, as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, delete lines 1-8 in their entirety, and
substitute therefor the following:

1. -This application is a Divisional application of
application Serial No. 09/461,432, filed December 16, 1999,
which is a Continuation application of application Serial No.
09/177,495, filed October 23, 1998, which is a Continuation
application of application Serial No. 09/061,062, filed April
16, 1998, which is a Continuation application of application
Serial No. 08/882,731, filed June 26, 1997, which is a
Divisional application of application Serial No. 08/593,870,
filed January 30, 1996, which is a Continuing application of
application Serial No. 08/443,039, filed May 17, 1995, which
is a Divisional application of application Serial No.